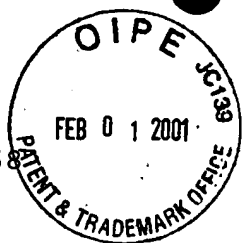


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35.C14958

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
JUNICHI KIMIZUKA, et al.)
:)
Application No.: 09/697,499)
:)
Filed: October 27, 2000)
:)
For: IMAGE FORMATION APPARATUS) January 31, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.


- (1) U.S. Patent No. 4,404,571
- (2) Japan 57-67375
- (3) Japan 02-226262

Reference (2) was discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 22 to 27, and reference (3) was discussed in the specification at page 1, line 20, to page 2, line 14. These references might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. Reference (1) is believed to be an English language counterpart of Reference (2).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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